President.—They are cases where prosecution may be necessary, but in this case the Government dispensed with them and satisfied itself with a mere dismissal.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I know whether these punishments are awarded with the unanimous approval of the Council?

President.—Of course.

Non-official Members of the Legislative Council and State functions.

327. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any principle or definite policy is being followed by the Government in inviting non-official members of the Legislative Council and other non-officials in the State to Government or State functions, and if so, what is the principle or policy followed, and whether any distinction is being made between those residing in towns like Ernakulam and other parts of the State, and also whether distinctions of caste or creed are being observed?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—There is no hard and fast rule on the subject. Government exercise their discretionary powers in such matters.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—My question has not been answered. I understand there is no hard and fast rule. My question is not whether there is any rule, but whether there is any definite principle or policy.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—It is not possible to have any definite principle or policy in a matter like this.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Am I to understand from the answer that no definite principle or policy is being followed even with regard to caste and creed?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—Caste and creed don't come in at all.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I have put a question which refers to caste and creed, and I wait for an answer.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—The question of caste and creed does not come in.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—There have been complaints that invitations have not been sent to some prominent men, because they belonged to certain castes.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—They may take action and complain to the Government.

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Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is there no definite policy followed in this matter? Am I to understand that there is no principle for the guidance of the officer? The officers can at their sweet will refuse invitation to any caste.

President.—The Government says there is no policy. It is not possible to have any so far as the Government is concerned.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is it impossible to lay down some principle or policy in using the discretionary power of the officer?

President.—First of all, what is the principle on which they are to be invited? There will be sometimes large numbers of people, you see, and sometimes small. These are matters regarding which no rules can possibly be laid down.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is there no list of the members who are to be invited for the Darbar and other State functions? Is it not possible to keep a list of names in the order of preference? Will the Government keep such a list in the future?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—The list is prepared now and then. There is no standing list.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is any principle or policy followed in revising this list?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—It is not possible to have any.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Perhaps, it is left to the sweet will of the officer to exclude any caste or invite any Tom, Dick or Harry he likes, whenever the list is revised.

The hardship caused by the application of certain sections of the Municipal Regulation.

328. Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—(a) Are the Government aware of the wide-spread discontent and hardship caused by the application of the provisions of sections 156 to 172 of the Cochin Municipal Regulation, Act XI of 1096, to people living within 3 miles of the Municipal limits?

(b) Do the Government propose to take any action in the matter, and if so, what?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—(a) Government have received petitions from the people in the matter.

(b) Sanction has been given to the Member for Urakam to introduce a Bill in this Council to amend the Regulation. Government will await the result.

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